

Conclusion

This report examines potential adjustments in agricultural production, trade, industrial uses, and prices of various commodities implied by the full adoption by U.S. consumers of dietary serving recommendations set forth in the Food Guide Pyramid.

While the net change in planted acreage resulting from these dietary shifts is projected to be relatively small (about 2 percent of total U.S. crop area), large adjustments are forecast for some commodities, like sweeteners, fats and oils, fruits, and some vegetables. For some commodity sectors, like sugarcane, where production is concentrated in a few regions, the large adjustments forecast nationally would have significant regional impacts.

The economics of the adjustment within many sectors is complex. This analysis focused on major adjust-

ments within and between subsectors. For example, significant reductions in the use of sweeteners and fats and oils would dramatically lower the value of these products. The lower prices would make these products more competitive in export and industrial markets. Increased demand for fruits, dark-green and deep-yellow vegetables, and lowfat meats and dairy products will pressure prices upward, potentially raising total food costs to consumers. Price increases for citrus fruits could be particularly large if supply adjustments are restricted by available land or import constraints. While our estimates of potential agricultural sector adjustments are inexact, they approximate the types and magnitudes of the adjustments that the agricultural sector might face as diets change.